

January 18-21, 2014

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Proposed court rule changes on agenda for Supreme Court's January 22 public administrative hearing

[Press Release](#)

Detroit Legal News: State Supreme Court Learning Center seeks new volunteer docents for training

"Volunteers need enthusiasm, love of learning, and commitment — but no legal experience — to serve as docents for the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Volunteer docents needed for Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center No legal experience needed; Center provides training for giving tours, showing exhibits

[Press release](#)

Note: This article also ran in the Oakland County Legal News

Oakland County Legal News: E-mail scam uses fake court summons

"It may look official: An e-mail notice to appear in court, claiming that the recipient is accused of "illegal software use" or other offenses. The notice instructs the recipient to download an attached "complaint" or click on a website link."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

E-mail scam uses fake court summons to target victims, possibly to transmit computer virus or malware

[Press Release](#)

Note: The Daily Mining Gazette, Detroit Legal News, WLNS, The Mining Journal, WGVU Public TV, The Republic, Fox 17, The Iron Mountain Daily News, The Lansing Journal, and other media outlets published the information.

Detroit Free Press: Ex-Chrysler engineer cleared in sex case sues defense attorney after 7 years in prison

".....Out of prison since 2012 — and with his record cleared after the Michigan Supreme Court tossed his conviction — Trakhtenberg is now suing his defense attorney Deborah McKelvy for malpractice. A trial is expected later this year. In a rare move, the state Supreme Court issued a strongly worded ruling saying he was entitled to sue McKelvy because she violated his constitutional rights. The high court sometimes determines whether a defendant is entitled to a new trial, but seldom considers legal malpractice cases, which are civil matters.

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Oakland Press: Oakland County man released from prison sues defense lawyer

[Full story](#)

Ingham County Legal News: Monday Profile: Judge Thomas Boyd

"Chief Judge Tom Boyd was born and raised in Kalamazoo. He graduated from James Madison College at Michigan State University in 1985 and Wayne State University Law School in 1990. He was appointed assistant attorney general in 1995, and 55th District Court (Ingham County) judge in 2005. Boyd was elected to continue that service in 2006 and 2008, the same year the Michigan Supreme Court appointed him chief judge."

[Full story](#)

Jackson County Legal News: Chief Judge of COA making name for himself nationally

"William B. Murphy's position as head of the Michigan Court of Appeals (COA) will end in January 2015, but he will continue to be immersed in "Chief Judge" issues for years thereafter."

[Full story](#)

Note: This article also ran in the Ingham County Legal News and the Washtenaw County Legal News

Jackson County Legal News: former Michigan Supreme Court justice passes at 76

"Attorneys and fellow jurists marked the passing of former Michigan Supreme Court Justice Patricia Boyle and paid tribute to her many contributions to the law."

[Full story](#)

Jackson County Legal News: Right time to retire: Coordinator at courthouse moves on

"For the past 12 years, Rene Bergeron has been the first person many people saw once they got through the metal detectors at the Jackson County Courthouse. And that's why Bergeron, the small claims case work coordinator for the civil division of the 12th District Court until her recent retirement, spent a good deal of time answering questions that began, "Where do I go to talk to someone about ..." or "How do I get to ..." and "Can you help me ..."

[Full story](#)

MLW Blog: Changes to how court proceedings are recorded, other rules set for discussion this week

"The Michigan Supreme Court will hold an administrative hearing on Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014, so the public can present its views on various proposed court rule amendments, including one that will allow courts to use audio and video recording equipment to record court proceedings."

[Full story](#)

MLW Blog: Lawyer challenges constitutionality of Court of Claims move

"An Ann Arbor appellate attorney has challenged the constitutionality of the recent Michigan Court of Claims move to the Michigan Court of Appeals. Gary P. Supanich filed a petition in *Okrie, et al. v. State of Michigan, et al.* in the Court of Appeals on Dec. 13, 2013, challenging the constitutionality of 2013 PA 164, which relocated the Court of Claims from Ingham County Circuit Court to the Court of Appeals."

[Full story](#)

Midland Daily News: Midland attorney to lead statewide effort

"Midland attorney Angela M. Cole has been appointed director of a statewide effort aimed at reducing delinquency by keeping youths in school.....A two-day summit recently was conducted in Ann Arbor, including experts on juvenile justice, law enforcement, juvenile judges, education, mental health, social services and other youth serving agencies across Michigan. Participants from 73 counties heard national and state speakers including Gov. Rick Snyder, Michigan Supreme Court Justices Mary Beth Kelly and

Bridget M. McCormack, Department of Human Services Director Maura Corrigan and Department of Education Superintendent Michael Flanagan. Midland County Probate Judge Dorene S. Allen, the summit chair, indicated "kids who are suspended or expelled are more likely to drop out altogether, and when they drop out, the likelihood that they'll get involved in some kind of criminal activity increases dramatically. The statistics are chilling; of Michigan prisoners, 49 percent do not have a high school diploma or a GED. This pattern is so common it is being called the 'school to prison pipeline'."

[Full story](#)

News-Herald: Michigan medical marijuana users, caregivers decline in 2013

"There were fewer medical marijuana patients in Michigan in 2013, but the number of medical marijuana providers dropped by nearly half as new laws regulating the growing industry took effect, and court rulings and prosecutions affected medical marijuana outlets..... New laws and a key Michigan Supreme Court ruling took effect in 2013. The state's high court ruling in February found that retail sale of medical marijuana is legal but that the state's medical marijuana law doesn't provide for dispensaries, dealing a blow to storefront operations that were popping up around the state."

[Full story](#)

Oakland County Legal News: Hathaway asks to be released from prison

"Former Michigan Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway is pleading with a judge to reduce her prison sentence for fraud or at least put her on home detention for six months."

[Full story](#)

Note: This article also ran in the Detroit Legal News

Saginaw News: Facing hard time, Saginaw County Juvenile Facility inmates paint Saginaw in a positive light

"Many of them first come through the doors handcuffed and escorted by police officers, but inmates at the Saginaw County Juvenile Facility recently had reason to celebrate..... Saginaw County Probate Judge Faye M. Harrison believes the project is something that should be done with more of the county's youths. "Often we see young people get in trouble because they don't see success in other activities," Harrison said. "We have some pretty violent kids here, and what amazes me is they spend 95 percent of their time just being kids. It's the other 5 percent we need to focus on."

[Full story](#)

Traverse City Record-Eagle: Rob Ford: 3 women had power, influence long before they knew it

"I had the fortunate circumstance of living with the influential forces of powerful and brilliant women pressed upon the budding persona of Rob Ford from an early age.....A certain aspiring judicial candidate named Betty Weaver was a frequent substitute teacher at Glen Lake during my middle school tenure there. And if Miss Weaver achieved a reputation as a stern dispenser of justice from the bench of the Michigan Supreme Court, it comes as no surprise to this former student of hers."

[Full story](#)

WNEM: Cell phones banned on most court property

"What if you were told you can't bring your cell phone into a public building? That's exactly what's happening after a Mid-Michigan county put a new "electronic device policy" in place at local courtrooms. Saginaw County leaders say it's a matter of public safety, but now an attorney is challenging the ban, which he says violates citizens' rights. The ban was put into place in mid-December and applies to court-related facilities including the Saginaw County Circuit Court, District Court, Probate Court (including the Juvenile, Family Court), the courtrooms, court administrative offices, Friend of the Court offices, probation offices and related common areas."

[Full story](#)

Washtenaw County Legal News: Tried and True Judge knows value of never giving up

"Consider him a late bloomer. Darnell Jackson, a Saginaw Circuit Court judge, certainly had his struggles in high school, where he posted a 1.97 grade point average, barely good enough to merit a diploma from Saginaw Buena Vista. So how does he explain his eventual rise to the circuit court seat? "Perseverance," he proclaimed."

[Full story](#)